

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 10242 080312Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2768

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, TH, CM

SUBJECT: KRIANGSAK ADDRESSES HONG KONG FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CLUB
ON CHINA TRIP

1. BANGKOK PRESS APR 7 CARRIED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE PM
KRIANGSAK'S APR 5 SPEECH BEFORE HONG KONG FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS CLUB. EXCERPTS OF SPEECH IN BANGKOK POST NOTED PRIME MINISTER HAD SAID PRIORITY OBJECTIVE OF HIS GOVT WAS TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR STABLE GOVT AND FAIR ELECTIONS.
GOVT HAD INHERITED PROBLEM OF THAMMASAT STUDENTS CHARGED WITH LESE MAJESTE (FOR ACTS COMMITTED IN OCT, 1976) AND WAS DOING ITS BEST TO PROVIDE DEFENDANTS WITH FULL LEGAL RIGHTS. KRIANGSAK ALSO REPORTEDLY PROMISED TO SEEK MEANS
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 10242 080312Z

TO PARDON THE DEFENDANTS AFTER LEGAL PROCESS WAS COMPLETED.

2. OF TRIP TO CHINA KRIANGSAK STATED VISIT WAS A SUCCESS; PRC LEADERSHIP HAD REAFFIRMED SUPPORT FOR AIMS AND PURPOSES OF ASEAN INCLUDING ZOPFAN (ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY) AND HAD EXPRESSED APPROVAL OF THAILAND'S EFFORTS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES.

IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, KRIANGSAK REPORTEDLY STATED THAT CHINA HAD DECLINED TO HELP SOLVE THAILAND'S BORDER PROBLEMS WITH CAMBODIA. PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT HE BELIEVED BORDER CLASHES HAD BEEN INSTIGATED BY THAI COMMUNIST RATHER THAN KHMER GOVT, AND THAT CAMBODIAN PRIME MINISTER IENG SARY WOULD VISIT BANGKOK SOON.

3. KRIANGSAK STRESSED TWO PRESSING INTERNATIONAL ISSUES WHICH THAILAND NEEDED ASSISTANCE IN SOLVING--NARCOTICS AND REFUGEES. HE APPEALED FOR HELP NOT ONLY IN SUPPRESSION OF HEROIN TRADE, BUT ALSO IN PROMOTING SUBSTITUTE CROPS AND MARKETING OF THOSE CROPS. HE NOTED THAT THAILAND PRESENTLY SUPPORTED 100,000 REFUGEES AND ASKED THAT MORE COUNTRIES HELP EASE WHAT SHOULD BE REGARDED AS AN INTERNATIONAL BURDEN.

4. KRIANGSAK SAID THAILAND WAS, DESPITE LOCAL CRITICISM, ATTEMPTING "TO PUT OUR ECONOMIC HOUSE IN ORDER SO THAT INVESTORS CAN FEEL COMFORTABLE AND HAVE CONFIDENCE IN OUR STABILITY AND RESILIENCE." ECONOMIC MEASURES WERE ALSO BEING INTRODUCED TO HELP IN STRUGGLE AGAINST COMMUNIST INSURGENCY. THAILAND WAS ATTEMPTING TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT, BUT WELCOMED CONSTRUCTIVE PARTICIPATION OF MAJOR POWERS IF THEIR AIMS WERE BENEFICIAL TO THE REGION. "WE CANNOT PREVENT RIVALRY AMONG THE MAJOR POWERS, BUT WE HOPE THAT FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA, THIS RIVALRY WILL BE IN THE NATURE OF WHO CAN DO MORE TO BETTER THE LIVES OF THE

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PAGE 03 BANGKO 10242 080312Z

PEOPLES OF THIS REGION AND NOT WHO CAN GAIN MILITARY OR STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE."

5. BANGKOK POST WAS ONLY PAPER IN TOWN WHICH CARRIED REPORT THAT KRIANGSAK HAD GIVEN QUALIFIED APPROVAL FOR FORMER PRIME MINISTER PRIDI PHANOMYONG TO RETURN TO THAILAND. REMARK RE PRIDI IN QUESTION AND ANSWER PORTION, IF ACCURATELY REPORTED, WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT DEPARTURE FROM USUAL THAI ATTITUDE THAT PRIDI'S RETURN IS A TABOO SUBJECT. ALTHOUGH KRIANGSAK MAY HAVE MADE STATEMENT AS EVIDENCE OF HIS CLAIM THAT "A GREAT DEAL OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION HAS BEEN ACHIEVED," OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WOULD SUFFER SHOULD PRIDI'S RETURN BECOME AN ISSUE. PRIDI HAS LIVED IN PARIS SINCE 1970 AND RECEIVES NUMEROUS THAI VISITORS THERE. HOWEVER, MANY INFLUENTIAL THAI STILL CONSIDER HIM TO HAVE BEEN IMPLICATED IN THE MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF KING ANANDA IN 1946 AND WOULD OPPOSE HIS RETURN TO THAILAND.

WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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